



NEWS RELEASE

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State Funds Awarded for Highway 101 HOV Project in Marin County

Completion of Project Now Within Reach

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Today, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) voted to allocate the funds necessary to complete the third phase of the Highway 101 HOV Project, the Central San Rafael section, relieving a critical bottleneck in Marin County.

The Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure previously lost funding due to a statewide financial shortfall. The vote brings funding relief to a project that will benefit many Marin area commuters.

In July, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a spending plan into law devoting \$1.3 billion of the \$117.5 billion state budget to fund transportation projects statewide. Restoration of Proposition 42 funds for this year will provide the \$42.5 million in state funds needed to complete the HOV lanes and other improvements along the Marin County corridor.

Marin County residents voted last year to pass Measure A, a half-cent increase in sales tax, to fund transportation programs. The sales tax expenditure plan includes funds to meet the shortfall of the GAP Closure project. With the CTC decision, Measure A funds previously dedicated to the third segment of the "Gap Closure," will be redirected to Phase 4, the Puerto Suello Hill Segment with a scheduled groundbreaking in early 2007.

Steve Kinsey, Chair of the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), the managing body of the sales tax expenditure plan, is now confident that the Highway 101 "Gap Closure" will be completed. "The funding comes as a relief to Marin and our residents. We are now confident that construction will be completed on schedule, ending the already difficult setback," said Mr. Kinsey.

Central San Rafael Project construction, extending from Coleman Pedestrian Overcrossing to the I-580/101 separation will commence on schedule in early 2006. The project duration is three years, scheduled to be complete December

2008. This is the third segment of four of the Highway 101 widening project providing a continuous HOV lane in Marin County. Additional work includes replacing the 101 southbound to I-580 westbound connector, re-aligning West Francisco Boulevard, relocating utilities underground as well as drainage improvements. Phase 1, the Calpark Hill Segment is complete and Phase 2, the Corte Madera Creek Segment, is currently under construction.